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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its 1365th meeting, on 6 August 1990, the Special Committee adopted a resolution concerning the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. 1/ The operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The Special Committee,

"...

"1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

"2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

"3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

"4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate."

2. An account of the consultations held in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution is set out below.

3. During the week of 22 July 1991, the Acting Chairman held extensive consultations with representatives of the administering Powers on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to him by the Special Committee.

4. The Acting Chairman informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing firsthand information on those Territories. Furthermore, it was the understanding of the Committee that a number of territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive such missions.

5. The administering Powers consulted have reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the Territories under their respective administration in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. Those already participating in the work of the Special Committee have further assured the Acting Chairman that they would in principle continue to do so. As regards the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions, however, the same willingness was not displayed, and it appeared that in most cases, further consultations with the administering Powers concerned would be necessary.

6. The Acting Chairman was gratified to learn from one administering Power that the United Nations could be invited in 1992 to send another visiting mission to the Territory it administers, as soon as some technical problems have been solved.

7. Other administering Powers, however, pointed out that while they might be willing to examine the possibility of receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration, they considered it essential to first ascertain that the peoples of those Territories really wanted such missions and, if so, to determine the objectives of those missions on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, in their view, a clear demonstration by the Committee of its determination to concentrate its efforts exclusively on the well-being of the peoples of the remaining small Territories might facilitate the acceptance of such missions by all concerned.

8. In this connection, the Acting Chairman drew the attention of his interlocutors to the series of reforms undertaken by the Special Committee in recent months which were aimed at improving the Committee's efficiency and method of work in fulfilling its mandate. Thus, the full cooperation of the administering Powers would be an important complement to those efforts.

9. The administering Powers consulted indicated that they had followed with great interest and appreciation the efforts of the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its work. They expressed the hope that the

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conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly would reflect those efforts, thereby paving the way for a renewed and closer cooperation of the administering Powers.

10. The Acting Chairman reiterated the Special Committee's conviction of the importance of the participation of all administering Powers in the work of the Committee and their readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their respective administration. With regard to visiting missions in particular, the Acting Chairman expressed the hope that the Special Committee would receive in the near future invitations from all administering Powers to send visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. It was agreed that the question should be kept under review and that further consultations should take place.

11. The Acting Chairman will keep the Special Committee apprised of any further developments in his consultations with the administering Powers concerned on this question.

Notes

1/ See A/45/23 (Part III), chap. IV, para. 11. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

Annex

VISITING MISSIONS DISPATCHED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
OR BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1965 Cook Islands (elections supervision)
- 1966 Equatorial Guinea
- 1967 Aden
- 1968 Equatorial Guinea (referendum/elections supervision)
- 1971 Papua New Guinea (jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
- 1972 Niue
Papua New Guinea (elections observation - jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
- 1974 Niue (referendum observation)
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Gilbert and Ellice Islands (referendum observation)
- 1975 Cape Verde
Montserrat
Spanish Sahara
- 1976 British Virgin Islands
Tokelau
- 1977 French Somaliland (referendum/elections observation)
Cayman Islands
United States Virgin Islands
- 1979 Guam
New Hebrides
- 1980 Turks and Caicos Islands (April)
Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Turks and Caicos Islands (October/November) (elections observation)
- 1981 Tokelau
American Samoa
- 1982 Montserrat
- 1984 Cocos (Keeling) Islands (act of self-determination)
Anguilla
- 1986 Tokelau
- 1989 Namibia (elections observation)
